

THE SOVIET UNION, HELSINKI AND UNESCO

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES THE SOVIET UNION'S ATTITUDES TOWARD THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE CURRENT HAIKONI CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION.

VOICE: WHEN THE SOVIET UNION, ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THIRTY-FOUR OTHER NATIONS SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AMERICANS GENERALLY WELCOMED THE EVENT. THEY INTERPRETED IT AS TENDING TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN EUROPE AND AS PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT EVER SINCE THEN, THE ATTITUDES OF MOSCOW AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES TOWARD THE COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND EAST-WEST CONTACTS HAVE COME INCREASINGLY INTO QUESTION IN THIS COUNTRY.

FOR ONE THING, AMERICANS LOOK AT THE CONTINUING RESTRICTIONS AGAINST SOVIET CITIZENS WANTING TO EMIGRATE AND AGAINST OTHERS WHO DISSENT FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF SOVIET TACTICS TO ENFORCE THOSE POLICIES.

THREE REPORTS BY GROUPS MONITORING SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN COMPLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS PUBLISHED IN RECENT DAYS HAVE ADDED FUEL TO THE QUESTIONING.

ONE IS A REPORT BY THE LONDON-BASED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. IT LISTS THE NAMES OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS BEING HELD IN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS IN RUSSIA. ANOTHER REPORT IS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS. IT CITES THE SOVIET UNION AS ONE OF EIGHT COUNTRIES THAT TORTURE POLITICAL PRISONERS. AND THE THIRD COMES FROM A GROUP OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. THEY DETAIL THE CASE HISTORIES OF COMPATRIOTS ARRESTED FOR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES. THIS REPORT ALSO MENTIONS THE USE OF MENTAL CLINICS TO STIFLE OR PUNISH DISSIDENTS.

JUST LAST WEDNESDAY, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE TROUBLED ATTITUDE IN THIS COUNTRY WHEN HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN HARTFORD THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS FALLEN SHORT OF LIVING UP TO ITS HELSINKI COMMITMENTS.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL RIGHTS--AND SPECIFICALLY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS--COMES FROM NAIROBI. ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE UNESCO CONFERENCE AGENDA THERE IS A SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN PROPOSAL THAT WOULD EXTEND GOVERNMENT CONTROLS OVER NEWS MEDIA IN THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD.

THE PROPOSAL HAS DRAWN FIRM OPPOSITION FROM NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREE PRESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA-- PARTICULARLY AMERICAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN.

FOR EXAMPLE, SWEDISH EDUCATION MINISTER JAN-ERIK VIKSTROEM SAID THURSDAY THAT THE SOVIET DRAFT DECLARATION IS BASED "UPON THE UNACCEPTABLE PRINCIPLE THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE MASS MEDIA." OTHER SPOKESMEN FOR WESTERN GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONDEMNED THE SOVIET MOVE AS VIOLATING THE UNESCO CHARTER, THE U.N. CHARTER AND ITS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE WESTERN DRAFTERS OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXPANDED HUMAN CONTACTS HAD THOSE DOCUMENTS VERY MUCH ON THEIR MINDS WHEN THEY HELPED TO DRAW UP THE FINAL ACT SIGNED BY THEM, THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES AT HELSINKI.